

STATEMENT BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND RECORDED FOR HIS WEEKLY
RADIO BROADCAST, JUNE 12, 1958.

MY FRIENDS AND FELLOW CITIZENS:

The work of the Senate is at a crucial stage. Legislation of the utmost importance is being brought to the Senate floor in rapid order, and we are working day and night to act on these proposals. I wish to take this time today to tell you a little about some of this important legislation and to share with you some of my thinking.

As I am recording this broadcast, the Senate is debating the labor reform bill. There can be no doubt that legislation is needed/to put an end to the kind of labor racketeering/that was exposed by the McClellan Committee's investigation. That is why I offered and supported/a number of amendments/to strengthen the bill while it was in committee. Most of my amendments were rejected, but, in the discussion, the subcommittee chairman agreed to strengthen the bill in several respects. While I think the bill contains some badly needed reform measures, it still needs to be strengthened. I have therefore reserved my right as a committee member/to offer or support strengthening amendments.

One of the amendments offered by me, which was accepted by the committee, prohibits the charging of a fee by a union for the unloading of a truck. The practice which would thereby be prohibited/has been a great burden on the growers and shippers of

75 3)
farm produce, and I am quite pleased to see this prohibition included in the bill.

During the week, the Senate also considered the railroad bill, which had been favorably reported by the Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee, of which I am a member. I supported this bill, recognizing that our railroads are in a perilous condition. Its enactment should have an overall good effect.

The labor reform bill and the railroad bill are useful measures. The Senate will soon take up some other important bills which, if enacted, will have a harmful effect. I will mention two of them today.

One such harmful bill/is the one providing for Alaska Statehood. The admission of Alaska will pave the way for the admission of Hawaii, a territory where Communist influences are strong/and where the traditions and way of life/are quite unlike those of the continental United States. We in the South should be particularly interested in the fact/that many of those favoring Statehood for Alaska/are also interested in reducing the power of Southern States in Congress. There are a number of reasons/why Statehood for Alaska would be unwise at the present time.

The House has approved a five-year extension of the reciprocal trade agreements act, giving the President authority to reduce tariff rates by 25 per cent over the next five years.

The President, acting through the Department of State, has used the authority given him by Congress/to use trade

(7633)
agreements as an instrument of diplomacy. If the President further lowers tariffs, in a futile effort to make friends abroad, we can expect further damage to important domestic industries. Our textile and plywood people in South Carolina know this only too well.

The power to fix tariff rates is assigned to Congress by the Constitution. This power should not be delegated to the Executive Branch.

In the crucial weeks that lie ahead, I shall continue to work with all my vigor to support and advocate those principles of government which are consistent with the spirit of the Constitution, and which are in the best interest of the people of South Carolina and the United States.

I wish to thank this station for granting me this time each week, and thank you for listening.

This is Strom Thurmond in Washington.

-END-